(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and the percentage of gross NPAs to gross advances, of public sector banks as on 31st March, 2000, 31st March, 2001 and 31st March, 2002 are given below:

		March, 2000	March, 2001	March, 2002
A	Gross NPAs (Rs. in crore)	53033	54672	56507
B	% to gross advances	14.0	12.4	11.1

While the gross NPAs of public sector banks have increased during the last two years in absolute terms, however percentage of NPAs to gross advances has decreased.

(c) No, Sir. NPAs are spread in both Priority Sector as well as Non-Priority Sector.

(d) Does not arise.

Redemption of US-64 Scheme

52. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that all the unit holders of US-64 scheme would redeem their respective share from the UTI-I after May, 2003, and get out and explore other safest investment avenues;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto alongwith the estimated units slated for redemption; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to give promotional offers to investors to re-invest the redeemed money in the mutual fund schemes or other monthy income plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Individual investors take investment/re-investment decision based on their risk-return perception, investment horizon, alternative investment avenues etc.

(c) Investors of US-64 will be given an option of five year, tax-free tradable bonds in lieu of cash payments at the time of redemption.

Foreign exchange reserves

53. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our foreign exchange reserve is close to $70 billion mark;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered prepaying some high cost foreign currency loans from the comfortable foreign reserves;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. India's foreign exchange reserves were placed at US $73.6 billion on 31st, January 2003.

(b) to (d) The Government has decided to repay prematurely two ADB and IBRD loans for $ 1254 million and $ 1549 million respectively in the current financial year, through the foreign reserves of the country. This premature repayment will be financed entirely through domestic market borrowings. This swapping of fixed rate foreign currency debt with fixed rate rupee debt will be advantageous to the country.

SEBI's action against defaulter promoters

54. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SEBI proposes to restrict the unscrupulous promoters from accessing capital market;